Protection of temple of Someshwara Mahadev

†1898. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that an ancient Someshwara Mahadev temple situated on a mountain 20 km. away from Chitrakoot district in Uttar Pradesh, is in dilapidated condition and most of its precious idols are being stolen;

(b) whether the Archaeological Department would take this ancient temple of Shiva in its protection; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF CUTLURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Someshwara Mahadev temple in Chitrakoot district of Uttar Pradesh is not under Central protection.

(b) and (c) The Archaeological Survey of India has no such proposal under consideration.

Cultural Resource Survey

1899. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is losing out on the possibility of excavating a large number of archaeological sites because of growing population and development activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any archaeological sites are buried under construction and cultivation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a cultural Resource Survey is conducted with the help of an archaeologist before taking up any development project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (f) In the absence of any provision in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959, that makes it mandatory to conduct a prior survey of cultural resources, presently no such survey is required to be carried out at the time of taking up development projects and activities. Since records in respect of potential archaeological sites are not maintained, it is not possible to provide information regarding sites that may be buried under construction/cultivation.

Conservation of monuments in Orissa

1900. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has received any proposal from the State Government of Orissa for financial assistance for the conservation of historical monuments, cultural value locations related to culture of Orissa during last three years;

(b) if so, the details of proposal, location-wise;

(c) the estimated cost of each project; and

(d) whether any progress has been made in this regard, so far?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.